Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03388 312253Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3102
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MARR, MILI, XF, IS SUBJECT: ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARD MOVEMENT OF THE LEBANESE BATTALION

- 1. IN COURSE OF AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S AUGUST 30 DISCUSSION WITH IRAELI DEPUTY PERMREP CAHANA REPORTED IN USUN 3368, THE LATTER ALSO BROUGHT UP A REPORT WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM JERUSALEM ON THE LATEST IDF ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE MOVEMENT OF A LEBANESE BATTALION TO TIBNIN. CAHANA SAID HIS INFORMATION INDICATED THAT, AFTER THE AUGUST 27 MEETING BETWEEN SIILASVUO AND GENERAL EITAN, THE IDF RECONSIDERED ITS POSITION AND SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED UNIILL TO CONVEY TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT THAT THE BATTALION COULD WELL MOVE SOUTH THIS WEEK RATHER THAN WAIT AN ADDITIONAL 2 OR 3 WEEKS.
- 2. LEONARD SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED THIS WITH URQUHART WHO INDICATED THAT REPORTS HE RECEIVED FROM UNIFIL MADE NO REFERENCE TO THIS. WHILE URQUHART MAY CHECK INTO THIS ON HIS OWN, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY BEIRUT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03388 312253Z

AND AMCONSUL JERUSALEM TO SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION FROM UNIFIL SOURCES. EMBASSY TEL AVIV PERHAPS COULD MAKE SIMILAR APPROACH TO IDF. LEONARD

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